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IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BUILDING

Advantage has been taken as usual of the quiet of summer to make improvements in the building, but these have this year been of a character more interesting to the officers and employees of the museum than to the public; the erection of the permanent smoke stack of reinforced concrete at the northeast of the building; the application of electricity to the picture elevator; the retinting of various galleries; and the repairing of the roof. One change will be recognized by those familiar with the galleries as a decided improvement, the opening of doorways at the ends of the great east corridor (Nos. 46, 47, 48) into the adjacent galleries (Nos. 25 and 45), which goes far to transform this corridor from a mere passageway into a dignified hall. The picture galleries which are ultimately to be constructed opening from this corridor are sorely needed, and the Trustees are deterred only by the lack of funds from building them immediately. The estimated cost is \$105,000. The interior of the building will never present its proper imposing appearance until the great central staircase and dome are erected, involving an expenditure of perhaps \$250,000. On the exterior the plans contemplate an architectural terrace of stone with a stone balustrade, at a distance of about forty feet from the building, an improvement which again only awaits the necessary means.

Extensions either across the Illinois Central tracks, or north and south, will become necessary at no distant day. We hope public spirited citizens will take note of these things, bearing in mind that no institution is conducted more exclusively for the public good than the Art Institute.

During the summer the full size plaster cast of Donatello's equestrian statue of Gattamelata at Padua has been set up in Blackstone Hall by the side of the Colleoni, affording an excellent opportunity of comparing these two famous statues. The statue has been skilfully bronzed so as to convey as nearly as possible the effect of the original work. The cut on page 21 shows the installation of the statue.

ACCESSION TO THE RYERSON LIBRARY

Among the gifts to the library is one deserving of special notice—the monumental work of David Roberts upon the Holy Land and Egypt, presented by Mrs. T. B. Blackstone. This work consists of six magnificent folios, handsomely bound in full pig-skin. Three volumes are devoted to the Holy Land, and three to Egypt and Nubia. The drawings, of architecture and landscape, were executed by David Roberts and are in many respects models for students, especially as regards the management of light-and-shade. The process of reproduction is lithography, executed by Mr. Louis Haghe, and the work illustrates the high character of lithography at the period of publication, 1842-1849. The historical descriptions are by the Reverend George Croly, LL.D., and Wm. Brockedon, F.R.S. The books were published in London by F. G. Moon, publisher in ordinary to Her Majesty. The set on the Holy Land is dedicated to Queen Victoria, that on Egypt and Nubia to King Louis-Philippe of France, and the list of subscribers includes many of the royal and noble families of Europe. The volumes may be consulted by visitors upon application to the librarian, upon the same conditions with the photographs.